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MAR 20 2002

REMARKS

Entry of the above-identified Preliminary Amendment prior to examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

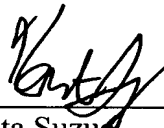
Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current Preliminary Amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made".

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required, including petition fees and extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-2415 (Docket No. 24224-702).

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: March 13, 2002



U.S. Application No. 09/107,862

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 14, 15, 39 and 40 as follows:

14. (Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein each of the IC design, the first level, and the second level[, and the third level] include at least two layers.

15. (Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein each of the IC design, the first level, and the second level[, and the third level] include one layer.

39. (Amended) The method of claim 36, wherein each of the IC design, the first level, and the second level[, and the third level] include at least two layers.

40. (Amended) The method of claim 36, wherein each of the IC design, the first level, and the second level[, and the third level] include one layer.